

CLAIMS

1. A method for applying to a root-canal instrument (2), known as a "condenser", comprising a screw and arranged on a handpiece (3), a filling material (1) of the Gutta percha or some other type, in the form of a paste intended to be introduced into the canal of a tooth using said root-canal instrument (2), characterized in that said filling material (1) is in the form of at least one dose (4) each arranged in a cartridge (5), each dose (4) roughly corresponding to the amount needed to treat and fill one single canal, the root-canal instrument (2) being plunged, rotating or stationary, into one of said cartridges (5) containing a dose (4) of filling material (1) so as to pick up on its walls just the amount of filling material needed.

2. A device (6, 6') for making available a filling material (1) of the Gutta percha or some other type, in the form of a paste, which is introduced into the canal of a tooth using a root-canal instrument (2) known as a "condenser" comprising a screw and arranged on a handpiece (3), characterized in that it comprises means allowing at least one cartridge (5, 5') containing filling material (1) in the form of a dose (4) roughly corresponding to the amount needed to treat and fill one single canal to be brought up to and maintained at the desired temperature.

3. The device (6, 6') as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said means making it possible to bring at least one cartridge (5, 5') up to and maintain it at the desired temperature consists in at least one cavity (8, 14) in which a cartridge (5, 5') can be positioned, said cavity or cavities (8, 14) being formed in a heat-conducting heating body (9, 18) heated by means of a resistive electric element.

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4. The device as claimed in either of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the cartridge (5') is arranged in a removable pot (13).

5. The device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the pot (13) essentially comprises:

- a central housing (14) for accommodating the cartridge,
- a thermal mass (15),
- 10 - thermally insulated external surfaces - (16) around the body of the pot and (17) over the top surface of said pot.

15 6. The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the thermal mass (15) is accessible towards the bottom of the pot and has a female cavity which accommodates a heating rod (18).

20 7. The device as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that the insulated surface (17) forms a lid on the pot (13) and has a circular shoulder (19) which collaborates with a trigger (20) articulated to the body (7') to make it possible to lock/release the pot, possibly with its cartridge, and to completely
25 close off the housing (14) when the pot is removed therefrom.

30 8. The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the thickness of the trigger is such that it can be moved aside simply under the pressure of the pot held by hand by the user.

35 9. A cartridge (5) intended to allow the method as claimed in claim 1 to be implemented, characterized in that it is fitted with means of sealed closure guaranteeing its sterility.

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